

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A surgical instrument, comprising:
a handle portion;
a body portion;
a jaw portion, said jaw portion comprising first and second jaws for gripping tissue there between; wherein said second jaw has a closed perimeter hole extending there through.
2. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein said second jaw is a lower jaw.
3. The instrument according to claim 2, wherein said first jaw has a slit.
4. The instrument according to claim 3, wherein said slit is opposite said body portion.
5. The instrument according to claim 4, wherein said first jaw has a center hole in communication with said slit.
6. The instrument according to claim 5, wherein said slit is narrower than said center hole.
7. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first and second jaws have teeth, wherein the teeth of the first jaw are out of phase with the teeth of the second jaw.
8. The instrument according to claim 7, where the tips of the teeth of the first and second jaws are spaced from each other.
9. The instrument according to claim 7, wherein the teeth are coated with a tissue protecting material.

10. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein said handle portion contains an overpressure linkage.

11. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein said first and second jaws are parallel to each other.

12. An arthroscopy method, comprising the steps of:

grasping a tissue between first and second jaws of an instrument, one of said jaws having a center hole and the other of said jaws having a u-shaped opening;

passing a suture through said tissue and said center hole of said one jaw and said u-shaped opening of said other jaw;

opening said jaws to release said tissue from the grasp of said jaws and release said suture from said jaw with said u-shaped opening; and

pulling said thread with said instrument while said jaws are opened.

13. The method according to claim 12, further including the step of providing said tissue, said tissue comprising an acellular matrix.

14. The method according to claim 13, further comprising using said instrument to position said acellular matrix adjacent a tear in the rotator cuff.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said step of passing comprises passing said threaded suture through said acellular matrix adjacent sutures pre-positioned in a portion of a rotator cuff.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein said step of passing comprises passing said threaded suture through said acellular matrix adjacent sutures pre-positioned in a bone anchor in a shoulder.

17. A method of using a surgical instrument having a first jaw having a slit

and a second jaw having a hole, comprising the steps of:

grasping a portion of a tissue between said first and second jaws;

puncturing said tissue with a hollow surgical needle in the area of the slit of said first jaw and the hole of said second jaw.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the step of using said instrument comprises using said instrument such that said first jaw is the upper jaw and said second jaw is the lower jaw.

19. The method according to claim 18, further comprising providing the upper jaw with a center hole and said slit.

20. The method according to 19, further comprising the step of passing a suture through said hollow needle, said tissue, and said center holes of said first and second jaws.

21. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of: releasing the tissue from the grasp of said first and second jaws, releasing said suture from said center hole of said first jaw using said slit, and using said second jaw to pull suture.

22. The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of first placing said suture in a shuttle.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein said suture is contained within a shuttle.

24. The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of grasping said shuttle between said first and second jaws.

25. The method according to claim 17, further comprising preventing said

tissue from being grasped with excessive force.